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Letter dated 18 June 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Mate Granic, addressed to you (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 137, and of the Security Council. 1/

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

1/ The communiqué has been reproduced as received. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities.

Annex

Letter dated 18 June 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Croatia hereby requests the separation of the ongoing mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) into three fully independent mandates, notwithstanding its final decision on the possible prolongation of the United Nations peace-keeping operation in the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Taking into account the new geopolitical realities in the territory of former Yugoslavia, it is the strong opinion of my Government that all the reasons for maintaining the existing framework of the UNPROFOR operation have ceased to exist. Instead, the United Nations should establish three separate operations: one in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, a second in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a third in the Republic of Macedonia.

The three aforementioned States are not in a state of war against each other, nor do they form any kind of union - political or otherwise. In no way could these three States be any longer defined as a uniform theatre of operations. It should also be emphasized that the Republic of Croatia is not a signatory to the UNPROFOR agreement.

All this clearly shows that the reasons for a unified UNPROFOR and unified command have ceased to exist and that such treatment is in clear contravention of the principle of sovereignty of the Member States of the United Nations.

At the time when the Security Council started the UNPROFOR mandate in the Republic of Croatia, adopting its resolution 743 (1992) of 21 February 1992, Croatia had not yet become a Member State of the Organization. The Security Council gradually expanded UNPROFOR and its mandate in the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and (through Security Council resolution 795 (1992) of 11 December 1992) in the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. In the light of the fact that Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina became Member States of the United Nations on 22 May 1992, and Macedonia became a Member State on 8 April 1993, it is politically and operationally unacceptable to consider UNPROFOR to be in the territory of former Yugoslavia. Furthermore, its mandate is different in each of those three countries - in Croatia its major goal is peace-keeping, in Bosnia and Herzegovina its essential task is humanitarian aid delivery and in Macedonia it is acting in a supportive role of preventive diplomacy.

Through the separation of the mandate, fundamental differences between these operations will be recognized, particularly those concerning actions in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Contrary to problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Croatia it is not the final political composition of the country that is to be resolved, but the effective solution of the problem of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs). This separation would also benefit the implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning the regime of sanctions against Serb held territories in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as

the better implementation of Security Council resolution 820 (1993) of 17 April 1993.

Any future United Nations action in the Republic of Croatia must be based upon the premise that the UNPAs are an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Croatia, as confirmed in Security Council resolution 815 (1993) of 30 March 1993. Accordingly, the United Nations operation in Croatia should not only be operationally separated from those in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia, but the name of the operation must be changed in a way to reflect the basic fact that it is taking place in Croatian territory.

The Government of Croatia considers the separation of the UNPROFOR (CRO) mandate to be an important step in confirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia. Such a step, as well as a more clearly defined mandate, will be conducive to and should greatly facilitate finding an adequate peaceful solution to the problem of UNPAs. Should such an arrangement be reached, possible future developments in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina would not interfere with implementation of the Vance Plan for the Republic of Croatia.

An independent United Nations peace-keeping mandate for Croatia will stress its specific goals, as inscribed in relevant Security Council resolutions. It will also help to establish clearer guidelines for the operation, the final goal of which must be the reintegration of the UNPAs with the rest of the Republic of Croatia. Therefore, my Government sincerely hopes that the process of separation of the UNPROFOR mandate will start as soon as possible.